

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 210923Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4260

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3004

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CH

SUBJ: PRC AMNESTY OF "WAR CRIMINALS"

REF: A) HK 2924; B) TAIPEI 1393; C) FBIS OKINAWA

OW 192040, MARCH 19

1. JAPANESE DEPUTY CONGEN MUTO PASSED TO US CONGENOFFS COMMENTS MADE TO HIM MARCH 20 BY FEI I-MIN, EDITOR OF PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO AND NPC PRESIDUM MEMBER, RE PRC SPECIAL ANMESTY OF "WAR CRIMINALS". (REF A) MUTO SAID FEI'S REMARKS CONFIRMED JAPANESE BELIEF THAT ANMESTY MOVE WAS PART OF PEKING'S "PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION WITH TAIWAN OFFENSIVE". FEI BEGAN CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT CONVENING RECENT NPC WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT , BUT ADDED THAT PRC STILL FACES MANY PROBLEMS AND THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS TO PROMOTE STABILITY AND UNITY. HE SAID THE RELEASE OF "WAR CRIMINALS, MOSTLY FORMER KMT OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS, WAS A REFLECTION OF NATIONAL STABILITY AND UNITY.

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2. NOTING THAT MOST OF RELEASED 293 HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY

THE COMMUNIST DURING THE HUAI HAI BATTLE IN 1948-49, FEI SAID THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS HAD FALSELY ANNOUNCED THE COMMUNISTS HAD KILLED OR EXECUTED ALL THOSE CAPTURED. THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE RELEASED NOW ON TAIWAN THUS WOULD BE OVERJOYED TO LEARN OF THEIR AMNESTY AND THE CHANCE TO BE REUNITED. FEI REMARKED THAT THOSE AMNESTIED OPTING TO GO TO TAIWAN WOULD COME THROUGH HONG KONG. HE ASKED MUTO , WHO HAD FORMERLY SERVED IN TAIPEI, IF TAIWAN WOULD ACCEPT THE ENTRY OF SUCH RELEASEES. MUTO REPLIED THAT TAIWAN WOULD BE IN A DILEMMA. IT WOULD NOT WANT TO ACT ON OR FURTHER PUBLICIZE THE MATTER. ON THE OTHER HAND , THE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF THOSE RELEASED WOULD CERTAINLY LEARN OF THE NEWS AND IF TAIWAN REFUSED ENTRY, THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS WOULD BEAR THE ONUS. MUTO OBSERVED THAT FEI NODDED AGREEMENT WITH THIS ANALYSIS.

3. REPLYING TO US CONGENOFF QUESTION, MUTO SAID ONLY JAPANESE PRISONER NOW BEING HELD BY TPRC WAS JAPANESE MAN ARRESTED DURING CULTURAL REVOLUTION ON SHIP IN EAST CHINA PORT ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES. HE IS SERVING 20- YEAR SENTENCE AND IS VISITED BY JAPANESE OFFICIALS FROM TIME TO TIME.

4. COMMENT: PRC MEDIA CONTINUES TO PUBLICIZE SPECIAL AMNESTY WITH EMPHASIS ON RELEASEE DUTY TO "CONTRIBUTE TO LIBERATION OF TAIWAN AND UNIFICATION WITH MOTHERLAND" THEME. MEDIA ATTENTION ON PRC WILLINGNESS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL TO AND FROM TAIWAN FOR RELEASEES AND FEI'S REMARKS SUGGEST STRONG PRC ANTICIPATION, IF NOT FOREKNOWLEDGE, THAT AT LEAST SOME RELEASEES WILL MAKE EFFORT TO ENTER TAIWAN. PEKING PROBABLY BELIEVES IT STANDS TO GAIN POINTS WHICHEVER WAY TAIPEI REACTS TO SUCH EFFORTS. THUS IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF SUCH EFFORTS ARE ATTENDED BY CONSIDERABLE FANFARE AND HONG KONG IS CHOSEN AS VENUE. HONG KONG GOV'T ASST POLAD TOLD CONGENOFF NO PRC APPROACHES ON THIS SCORE RECEIVED AS YET, BUT NOTES TRANSMIT THROUGH HONG KONG OF PERSONS HOLDING PRC PASSPORTS OCCURS REGULARLY. HE ADDS THAT NUMBER OF MEDIA QUERIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, INDICATING INTERNATIONAL PRESS INTEREST ON THIS IS HIGH.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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